

MINUTES OF MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL
HELD
DECEMBER 9, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Chair
Commissioner Clyde Reese
Commissioner Mike Beatty
Chair/Pardons & Parole - James Donald
David Statton for B.J. Walker
Diane Reeder
Patricia Smith for Commissioner Brian Owens
Representative Katie Dempsey
Arrived at 10:45am
Tonia Poole

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Garland Hunt
Brad Bryant
Commissioner Michael Thurmond
Senator Renee Unterman
Julie Spores
Stanley Jones

Commissioner Frank Shelp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00am and noted that the Council did not have a quorum and therefore could not conduct any business regarding approval. Commissioner Shelp suggested that items for approval be placed at the end of the agenda in case members arrive to constitute the quorum.

EXECUTIVE WORKGROUP REPORT

Cassandra Price, Executive Director of Addictive Diseases, gave her group's report of the current prescription practice. Ms. Price noted that the challenge from the Department, specifically for Commissioner Shelp, is for representatives of the state's major agencies and departments to find one mechanism to utilize collaborating purchasing power of medications to save the state money.

OPEN DOOR TO RECOVERY PROJECT

Diane Reeder asked Marsha O'Neal, GCIC Chief of Staff, from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to present the partnership with the Open Doors to Recovery (ODR) Project in Region 5. The partnership will involve a potential diversion of the 100 participants in the ODR project by flagging their names in the GCIC system.

The Open Doors to Recovery Project centered in the Region 5 area, is an attempt to reduce by 20% the readmission into the state hospital. The goal is to transfer information and data between agencies, particularly regarding treatment and medication to ensure treatment and care continuity. Diane Reeder explained the Meaningful Day component of the ODR. Park rangers will receive training in crisis intervention treatment and mental health first aid. The Department of Labor in Savannah is also a part of ODR; and the vocation rehab directors that covers four vocation rehab regions will assist the 100 clients in planning activities centered on jobs and job training or volunteerism, education, etc., matching their interest and goals with the activities.

MINUTES

Representative Katie Dempsey arrived at 10:45am and constituted a quorum. A Motion was made by Commissioner Reese to approve the Minutes of October 20, 2010. The Motion was seconded by Representative Dempsey. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

2011 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Consuelo Campbell, Director of Constituent Services and Legislative Affairs, gave the policy and legislative agenda of DBHDD for 2011. Ms. Campbell noted that this will be the 151st session of Georgia General Assembly and is slated to begin on January 10, 2011.

- **Temporary and Immediate Care of Persons with DD**

This Bill will codify DBH's plan to serve persons with developmental disabilities in the least restrictive environment and rescind the current statutory provisions which designate state hospitals to admit persons with developmental disabilities in crisis.

- **Crisis Stabilizations Programs or CSUs**

This bill will codify the requirements for operation and licensure of community based Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) and broaden and expand the array of community services.

This legislation would also expand the spectrum of services among existing community providers and facilitate the entry of new providers into the CSU market. This includes CSUs for adults, children and adolescents.

- **Forensic Services**

Limit inappropriate hospitalizations of defendants found incompetent to stand trial, and who do not require hospital level care in a state hospital bed.

This legislation will expedite competency hearings, allow for community competency restoration for those defendants charged with lesser crimes, and limit the time a court can hold a non-restorable (cannot be tried) individual in a forensic facility with exceptions for those with violent crimes.

Ms. Campbell also noted that the department will seek forensic legislation support from Senator John Crosby and Representative Wendell Willard and will also seek support from Representative Jay Neal for temporary and immediate care of DD.

Commissioner Shelp stressed the importance of each of the three pieces of legislation. Commissioner Reese suggested the Department of Behavioral Health ask for exemption of "Certificate of Need". He said that this 2001 agreement was designed to keep CSUs below threshold of the proposed legislation. In order to meet agreements in the timeline of the DOJ settlement, some of the proposed legislation must pass. Ms. Campbell concluded her report by saying that the Department would be identifying and contacting the legislative coordinators of each major agency to facilitate support in getting the proposed legislation passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Shelp reported that the Department has reached a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice in early October. The settlement does not affect the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). The settlement begins where CRIPA ends – either after patient leaves the hospital or before they are admitted. He stated that patients will receive CSU services or CST services in community-based settings. This is a five year agreement, and at the end of each fiscal year, on June 30, an audit will be conducted.

Commissioner Shelp also reported that a certain number of individuals will be moved out of hospitals into integrated services within the community. ACT Teams and Community Support Teams are critical to the success of the plan. Intensive case management teams are also critical to the success of the agreement. The plan does not include C&A or forensic services. Many of C&A services provided through Medicaid falls to the Department of Community Health. The Department of Community Health is signatory to the agreement because Medicaid is substantial to the settlement agreement. The implementation of agreed upon points for the July 1, 2011 deadline is already underway. There are 16 ACT Teams, 12 of those will be re-procured. Also there is a procurement announcement for 14 new ACT Teams, 10 of which are already in existence. The Commissioner concluded by saying that the agreement with the DOJ is short, focused and quantitative; there is accountability in the agreement in the annual audit.

OTHER BUSINESS

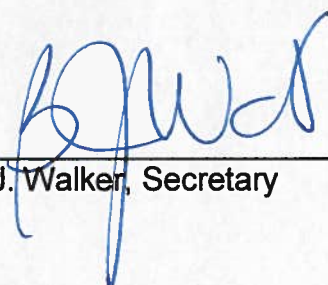
The Coordinating Council discussed the frequency of meetings in tangent with the Executive Committee. The Council deferred to the discretion of the Chair to schedule full Council meetings. Commissioner Shelp reported that he prefers quarterly meetings with the Executive Committee driving the agenda for the full Council. He also stated that full Council meetings will be called more frequently than quarterly if it becomes necessary. The Commissioner thanked the Council for its work during the Council's first year in existence.

The dates of the 2011 Council meetings will be forwarded to Council members and placed on the Department's website.

A Motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Reese and seconded by Mr. Donald. The meeting concluded at 11:15am.



Frank E. Shelp, Chair



B. J. Walker, Secretary